

**Remarks**

The Office Action mailed November 21, 2003 and made final and the Advisory Action dated February 9, 2003, have been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a two month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated November 21, 2004, for the above-identified patent application from February 21, 2004, through and including April 21, 2004. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(2), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of \$420.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

Claims 12-21 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-11 are cancelled.

The rejection of claims 1-4, 7, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Conrad (U.S. Patent No. 1,466,423) is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 9 and 10 are cancelled..

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of claims 1-4, 7, 9, and 10 be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Conrad is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6 and 8 have been cancelled.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of claims 6 and 8 be withdrawn.

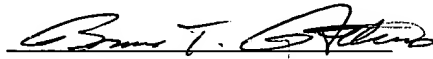
The rejection of claims 5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Conrad in view of Reese et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,214,406) is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5 and 11 have been cancelled.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of claims 5 and 11 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bruce T. Atkins  
Registration No. 43,476  
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740  
(314) 621-5070